
BACKGROUND

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July 22, 2004

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

LILLOOET PLAN BRINGS LAND USE CERTAINTY TO REGION

Lillooet Area

- 11,000 square kilometres including the communities of Lytton, Lillooet, Spence's Bridge and Bralorne
- Primary economic activities are forestry, tourism, agriculture and mining
- Population almost 6,500

Planning Process

- Land and resource management planning began in 1995
- Limited engagement by First Nations in planning process
- Interim decision just before the 2001 election established the Spruce Lake Protected Area in the South Chilcotin over the objections of the community and other sectors
- In Fall 2001 the province committed to returning to the community and stakeholder groups to try to resolve issues between the mining, tourism and conservation sectors on key details of the plan
- The ministry also began consultation with some First Nations in the area
- Government-to-government protocol with the St'at'imc First Nation signed in June 2004
- The ministry has also signed LRMP consultation agreements with the Mount Currie and Esketemc First Nations
- Agreement was reached with communities on a Memorandum of Agreement for co-ordinating economic activity
- Government has approved moving forward with the next stage of the planning process – consultations with First Nations on land use designations and zoning

First Nations Involvement

- 28 First Nations bands have traditional territory in the area
- The government to government protocol and letter of agreement with the St'at'imc First Nation will guide discussions with member bands
- Government will consult with other First Nations before approving and implementing a final plan

Next Steps

- Consultation with First Nations to develop final plan details
- Cabinet reviews plan and makes final land use decisions in Open Cabinet
- Government designates final protected areas

Land Use Designations Recommended

Table 1. Proposed land use designations for Lillooet area

Zones/Areas (see map for detail)	Allowed Uses	Hectares
Current Parks	Stein Valley, several small parks	110,673 10% of region
Proposed Parks/Conservancy	No mining, emphasis on tourism infrastructure and First Nations traditional activities. Grazing permitted	82,416 7% of region
Tourism/Mining Permitted:	No commercial forestry or hydroelectric dam development. Emphasis on tourism and mining	14,617 1% of region
Proposed All Resource Uses Permitted	All uses - including tourism, forestry, mining and hydro	917,636 82% of region

Summary of socio-economic and environmental impacts

- Creation of 56,500 hectare South Chilcotin protected area with intent to move it to Class A park status.
- A 14,600 hectare tourism/mining area that will exclude commercial logging (part of previous South Chilcotin protected area).
- Eight other new parks.
- Total parks/protected areas will be 193,098 hectares – 17.25 of total plan area.
- Protection of key grizzly bear habitat; continued ban on grizzly bear hunting to meet plan target of doubling grizzly population to 182 animals.
- Reduced environmental risk to spotted owls, grizzlies and other wildlife.
- Access available to high-potential mineral sites.
- Positive impact for recreation and tourism.
- Current forest harvest rate is below allowable levels; Timber and Economic Recovery Plan will support increased forestry activity and employment.
- Increased First Nations involvement in economic opportunities, based on the plan.

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